GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5159
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
JALA SAMVARDHANA PROGRAMME
KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the Government of Karnataka not to take up Jala Samvardhan Programme to desilttanks in the Cauvery basins areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for prohibiting Karnataka Govt. to take up the said programme;

(c) whether the Government have noticed that the Tribunal had gone on record saying that desilting would have no impact on the basin area; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka have submitteda proposal for rehabilitation of about 6000 tanks in the State for World Bank assistance, including tanks in the Cauvery basin. The project intends to benefit 1.80 lakh ha. additional area. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) inits Interim Order dated 25th June, 1991 has interalia directed the Government of Karnataka that they shall not increase its area under irrigation by the waters of the river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lakh acres. As per details furnished by Government of Karnataka to the Cauvery WaterDisputes Tribunal, this area includes 2.93 lakh acres under minor irrigation. The Government of Tamil Nadu has therefore objected to this project. The Government of Karnataka has hence advised to delete the tanks in Cauvery basin from the project proposal which Government of Karnataka has accepted. In the alternative, the Government of Karnataka has also been advised to obtain the consent of co-basin States or specific approval of the Tribunal for the proposal of desiltation of old tanks in Cauvery basin in the State.